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FCC - MAILPOOM

Kevin J. Martin, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th St. SW Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket Numbers 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Martin:

It is a pleasure to write to you in support of the nomination of Paul Waits to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors.

Mr. Waits, President of Ritter Communications Holdings, Inc., Jonesboro, Arkansas, is involved with rural CLECs, and would be a very knowledgeable member on the USAC Board. His experience would be especially valuable as the universal service program faces future changes.

His contributions to the telecommunications industry, along with his regulatory experience, would make him an excellent selection for this important appointment.

Thank you for your consideration of Paul Waits as the CLEC member on the USAC Board.

Sincerely,

Terry Wegener General Manager

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cc: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission

Thomas Navin, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission

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